

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9470

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJ: JOHN TOUMBAS REPLACES CONSTANTINE TSATSOS AS NEW DEMOCRACY
DEPUTY-AT-LARGE IN GREEK PARLIAMENT

1. JOHN TOUMBAS WAS SWORN IN AS DEPUTY-AT-LARGE FOR THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY ON JULY 4 TO FILL THE SEAT VACATED BY CONSTANTINE TSATSOS WHO WAS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC ON JUNE 19 (ATHENS 4553). TOUMBAS HAD RUN AS A NEW DEMOCRACY CANDIDATE FROM THE ATHENS "A" DISTRICT IN LAST NOVEMBER'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS BUT HAD FAILED TO BE ELECTED. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT HIS VOTE TOTAL WAS THE HIGHEST NATION-WIDE AMONG UNSUCCESSFUL NEW DEMOCRACY CANDIDATES GAVE HIM THE RIGHT TO FILL THE TSATSOS SEAT UNDER TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE ELECTORAL LAW.

2. TOUMBAS IS 74 YEARS OF AGE. HE PURSUED A CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL NAVAL OFFICER FOR THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS, AND RETIRED AS A VICE ADMIRAL FROM THE POSITION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GREEK FLEET IN 1953. HE ENTERED POLITICAL LIFE IN 1955 AS A PROTEGE OF THE LIBERAL POLITICAL LEADER SOPHOCLES VENIZELOS. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ELECTED AS A DEPUTY FROM THE ATHENS AREA - FIRST AS A LIBERAL CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTIONS OF 1956 AND 1958 AND THEN AS A

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CENTER UNION CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTORAL CONTESTS OF 1962, 1963

AND 1964.

3. AFTER GEORGE PAPANDREOU'S FALL FROM POWER, IN 1965, TOUMBAS JOINED THE "APOSTATES" (CENTER UNION DEFECTORS) AND HELD MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS IN THE SUCCEEDING GOVERNMENTS OF PRIME MINISTERS ATHANASIADIS-NOVAS AND STEPHANOPOULOS. HIS FINAL PORTFOLIO WAS THAT OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN PRIME MINISTER STEPHANOPOULOS' CABINET, A POSITION HE WAS HOLDING AT THE TIME OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THAT GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 1966. KUBISCH

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